

SENATOR MOORE: On the bill.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely, closing. Senator Wesely, you are recognized to close.

SENATOR WESELY: There's an amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Amendment to the committee amendments, okay.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Rasmussen would move to amend the committee amendments. (FA460 appears on page 1398 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, this amendment to the committee amendment modifies the commission or the advisory council that is established through the committee amendments. I actually introduced legislation to establish a commission to look at the entire array of support services that are available to people with disabilities in Nebraska, to look at what we are trying to accomplish with the programs that we have developed thus far as well as looking at the strategies that we are using for accomplishing that and to look and see if we are making the most efficient use of our resources. As I introduced that legislation I became aware of the fact that in the Department of Public Institutions was already in the process of developing a statewide plan and doing much of what I was looking at in the formation of a commission. Their charge comes both federally from the Disability Act as well as at a state level from LB 830. So rather than duplicate those efforts, we simply said that we would create an advisory council to the Department of Public Institutions for the purpose of assisting them in the development of a statewide plan. The original structure of the commission was to be an interagency, public-private kind of partnership and that didn't work as well within the confines of the Department of Public Institutions so this amendment simply rearranges the composition to be more compatible with what we are now doing and that is that we are saying instead of a representative from the various state agencies, we will have one-third of the representation on this committee be people who have disabilities, one-third who are people who are family members of those with disabilities and one-third representing representatives from agencies that provide services, private agencies, as well as folks that are